

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 OMB-01

AF-06 SY-05 SCCT-01 A-01 OPR-02 OC-05 CCO-00 USSS-00

DHA-02 ORM-02 /085 W

----- 043581

R 081445Z MAR 76

FM AMCONSUL OPORTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 810

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

DIA WASHDC

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: WEEKEND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: OPORTO 0098 (DTG 051315Z MAR 76)

1. POLITICAL VIOLENCE: TWO MORE PRE-DAWN BOMBS EXPLODED MARCH 6 IN OPORTO DAMAGING PERFUME SHOP AND GAS STATION. NO INJURIES REPORTED ALTHOUGH POLICE REPORT THAT BOMB AT GAS STATION CAME CLOSE TO IGNITING UNDERGROUND TANKS WHICH WOULD HAVE CAUSED A DISASTER. COMMENT: MARCH 6 BOMBINGS MAY BE BEEN LEFTIST RESPONSE TO EARLIER VIOLENCE (REFTEL). PERFUME SHOP IS SAID TO BE OWNED BY RIGHT-WING CONSERVATIVE AND GAS STATION ALLEGEDLY WAS JUST PURCHASED BY ANTI-COMMUNIST ANGOLAN REFUGEE.

2. LEFTISTS DEMONSTRATE: VARIOUS OPORTO LEFTIST COUNCILS OF TENANTS AND WORKERS ORGANIZED MASS RALLY IN DOWNTOWN SQUARE MARCH 6 TO DEMAND "END TO EVICTIONS AND IMMEDIATE LEGALIZATION OF OCCUPIED RESIDENCES." CROWD OF 4000 WATCHED RED-FLAG WAVING YOUTH DRIVE OFF PAPIER MACHE FIGURES REPRESENTING POLICE, FASCISTS AND CAPITALISTS TRYING TO EVICT POOR TENANTS IN OPEN-AIR SHOW A LA MAO. THERE

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WAS ALSO CONSIDERABLE PARTICIPATION BY COMMITTEE FOR THE LIBERATION

OF ANTI-FASCIST AND REVOLUTIONARY PRISONERS (CLARP) WHICH USED RALLY TO DRUM UP SUPPORT FOR ITS OWN UP-COMING MARCH 11 DEMONSTRATION COMMEMORATING "FASCIST DEFEAT" A YEAR AGO. COMMENT: LOCAL COMMUNISTS (PCP) REFUSED TO SUPPORT RALLY AND CONDEMNED IT AS "ADVENTURIST AND PROVOCATIVE" WHILE AT SAME TIME SYMPATHIZING WITH DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE LEGALIZATION OF OCCUPIED RESIDENCES. RALLY CONFLICTED WITH PCP'S OWN 55TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AT CRYSTAL PALACE WHICH SOME DEMONSTRATORS LATER ATTENDED.

3. REFUGESS MARCH: ACROSS TOWN FROM LEFTIST RALLY SEVERAL HUNDRED REFUGEE FAMILIES MADE SILENT MARCH MARCH 6 IN MEMORY OF "OUR DEAD ANGOLAN BROTHERS." COMMENT: THIS WAS FIRST PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION BY RETURNEES SINCE RPA RECOGNITION AND POOR TURNOUT DEMONSTRATES CONTINUED LACK OF ORGANIZATION AND GROWING APATHY AMONG REFUGEE CIRCLES. PENNER

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